

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1 through 44 are pending in the present application.

The Office originally issued a request for election of species requiring election of one of three suggested species for prosecution in the present application. During an interview held on February 15, 2008, the Examiner verbally amended the number of species into two, as follows:

- Species I (independent claims 1, 13)  
Figures 3-6
- Species II (independent claims 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 31, 33, 35, 39, 39, 41, 42, and 44)

Figures 10-14

Applicant's undersigned representative provisionally elects with traverse the Office's Species I identified as corresponding to figures 3-6 and claims 1 and 13, and their respective dependent claims, as applicable. This election is in no way an admission of the Office's characterizations of the figures and claims. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the non-elected claims, as well as any other claims supported by the specification, in one or more subsequent patent applications.

Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully submits that prosecuting remaining claims 14 through 44 in the present application will not impose a serious burden on the Office. The M.P.E.P. specifies that there are two criteria for a proper restriction: a) the inventions must be independent or distinct; and b) there must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required. M.P.E.P. § 803; See also M.P.E.P § 808.02 ("in order to establish reasons for insisting upon restriction, [the Office] must explain why there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required"). The undersigned respectfully submits that prosecuting claims 14 through 44 with claims 1 through 13 in the present application will not impose a serious burden. Indeed, any burden that might result to the Office is far outweighed by the

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burden and additional expense on Applicant in having to prosecute the claims separately.  
Reconsideration of the restriction is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Robert A. Madayag III/  
Robert A. Madayag III  
Registration No. 57,355

Woodcock Washburn LLP  
Cira Centre  
2929 Arch Street, 12th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2891  
Telephone: (215) 568-3100  
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439